In the Claims:

(All claims, whether or not amended, are presented for Examiner's convenience.)

68. (Amended) A method of inhibiting epileptogenesis, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a substituted β-amino anionic compound, wherein

- each substituent is independently alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonyloxy, or aminocarbonyl; and
- the amino group is $-NR^aR^b$, wherein R^a and R^b are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or aryloxycarbonyl; or R^a and R^b, taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycle having from 3 to 7 atoms in the heterocyclic ring;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, such that epileptogenesis is inhibited.

69. (Amended) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 68, wherein

- the anionic group is a carboxylate;
- each said substituent is independently an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group; and
- R^a and R^b are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; or R^a and R^b, taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycle having from 3 to 7 atoms in the heterocyclic ring.

78. The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69, wherein said aryl or said aryloxy group is substituted.

80. The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 78, wherein the substituent on said aryl or aryloxy group is a halogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxyl, amino, aryloxy, alkyl amino, dialkylamino, arylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, or an aromatic moiety.

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92. (Amended) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69, wherein said substituted β-amino anionic compound is a β-substituted β-alanine.

93. (Amended) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 92, wherein said substituent is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl group.

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118. (Amended) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69, wherein said β-amino anionic compound is $RCH(NH_2)CH_2COOH$, wherein R is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3-(4-methylphenoxy)phenyl, 3-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-(3,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-bromophenyl, phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-acetamidophenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-diethylaminophenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 2-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 4-phenylphenyl, 3,4-dibenzyloxyphenyl, or 3-[(3-trifluoromethyl)phenyloxy]phenyl.

119. (Amended) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 92, wherein said β-amino anionic compound is $RCH(NH_2)CH_2COOH$, wherein R is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3-(4-methylphenoxy)phenyl, 3-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-(3,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-bromophenyl, phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-acetamidophenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-diethylaminophenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 2-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 4-phenylphenyl, 3,4-dibenzyloxyphenyl, or 3-[(3-trifluoromethyl)phenyloxy]phenyl.

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Sub

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138. (Amended) A method for treating a convulsive disorder, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a substituted β-amino anionic compound, wherein

- each substituent is independently an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group; and

- the amino group is $-NR^aR^b$, wherein R^a and R^b are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; or R^a and R^b, taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycle having from 3 to 7 atoms in the heterocyclic ring;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; such that said convulsive disorder is treated.

139. (Amended) The method of claim 138, wherein the anionic group is a carboxylate.

140. (Amended) The method of claim 139, wherein said β-amino anionic compound is a derivative selected from the group consisting of α-substituted β-alanine, β-substituted β-alanine, α,α-disubstituted β-alanine, α,β-disubstituted β-alanine, β,β-disubstituted β-alanine, α,β,α-trisubstituted β-alanine, α,β,β-trisubstituted β-alanine, and α,α,β,β-tetrasubstituted β-alanine compounds.

141. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein said β-amino anionic compound is a derivative selected from the group consisting of α-substituted β-alanine, β-substituted β-alanine, α,α-disubstituted β-alanine, α,β-disubstituted β-alanine, β,β-disubstituted β-alanine, α,β,α-trisubstituted β-alanine, α,β,β-trisubstituted β-alanine, and α,α,β,β-tetrasubstituted β-alanine compounds.

142. (New) A method for treating a convulsive disorder, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a substituted β-amino anionic compound, wherein

- each substituent is independently alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonyloxy, or aminocarbonyl; and

- the amino group is $-NR^aR^b$, wherein R^a and R^b are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl,

alkoxycarbonyl, or aryloxycarbonyl; or R^a and R^b, taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycle having from 3 to 7 atoms in the heterocyclic ring;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, such that epileptogenesis is inhibited.

In the Specification:

On page 69, replace the paragraph starting at line 26 with the following:

In contrast, β-alanine and an analog of α-(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)-alanine (see Example 1) were administered at a comparable dosage (20 mg/kg/day i.v. for 10 days) at either Time 1 or Time 2 using the same protocol outlined above. At Time 1, each of these compounds was 75% effective in decreasing seizures by at least 50%; at Time 2, each compound was 50% effective in decreasing seizures by at least 50%.